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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/942,886	08/30/2001	Michael Anthony Pugel	PU010164	9822

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EXAMINER

MEHRA, INDER P

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2666

DATE MAILED: 03/03/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/942,886	Applicant(s) PUGEL, MICHAEL ANTHONY	
	Examiner Inder P. Mehra	Art Unit 2666	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 November 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2-8 and 13-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2-8 and 13-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 August 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to amendment dated: 11/30/2005. Based on this amendment claims 2-8 and 13-21 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claim 2-8, 13-15, 16 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by **Gordon et al** (US patent No. 6,754, 271), hereinafter , Gordon.

For claims 3, 13 and 16, Gordon discloses a method , comprising:

- associating each of at least one group of packets forming a bit stream with a stream identifier and a respective sequence code, said at least one group of packets comprising at least one bit stream packet, (refer to fig. 20, and col. 23 line 63-col. 24 line 13); and
- transmitting, via any one of a plurality of available transmission channels, each of said at least one group of packets, said transmission channels nominally transmitting NULL packets (refer to “**add null pakets**”, col. 22 lines 55-60), in the event of underutilization, said at least one group of packets

being transmitted in place of said nominally transmitted NULL packets (The null data may be replaced by the graphics grid slices (e.g., at a later step, within the LNE, refer to col. 33 lines 35-40);

- said data structure comprising a header portion and a payload portion, said payload portion, **as recited by claim 16**, refer to col. 9 lines 45-50 and col. 12 lines 24-26.
- adapting a packet structure for at least one packet of said at least one group of packets (video 2012 a-j, audio 2014 and data streams 2016a-j of packets) to conform to a network packet structure suitable for use by said transmission channels (**Final transport streams, 2018**), refer to fig. 20, col. 23 lines 63-67;

For claims 2, 4-8, 14-15 and 19, Gordon discloses all the limitations of subject matter of these claims including the following limitations:

- wherein at least one of said at least one group of packets forming said bit stream are correlated with channel identification , **as recited by claim 2, refer to fig. 20**, and time of transmission information for, respectively, indicating which of said plurality of transmission channels, **as recited by claims 2 and 6**, will carry respective packet groups and the time said at least one group of packets are carried, **as recited by claim 2, (refer to fig. 20 and col. 23 lines 63-65 for “time period” and col. 24 for “time point”)**.

- **said network packet structure comprises a header portion and a payload portion, said payload portion including at least one associated groups of packets, as recited by claim 4, (refer to fig.2,packetizer, col. 9 lines 5-8);**
- **said network packet structure includes stream identifier and sequence code information corresponding to said at least one group of packets included within said payload portion, as recited by claim 5, refer to figs. 20-21, refer to col. 24 lines 54-56;**
- **determining the loading of each of a plurality transmission channels, as recited by claim 7, (refer to fig. 2, multiplexing unit 116 ----to produce one or more transport streams---video, audio, and data streams, refer to col. 6 lines 39-42);**
- **determining an allocation of bit stream packets among the transmission channels, refer to packetizers 240a-m, col. 9 lines 5-15;**
- **inserting non-allocated bit stream packets into said transmission channels in place of said nominally transmitted NULL packets, (refer to “the null data may be replaced by the graphics grid slices (e.g., at a later step, within the LNE, refer to col. 33 lines 35-40),**
- **wherein said allocation of bitstream packets among said transmission channels is determined with respect to at least one of the following criteria;**
 - transmission channel data rates, bitstream data rate, transmission channel utilization level, transmission channel loading level, transmission channel scheduling, bitstream quality of service requirement, and recited by claim 8,**

refer to col. 25 lines 4-14..

- wherein said network interface utilizes said channel identification and time of transmission information to allocate respective transmission channel time slots to said at least one group of packets to be transmitted via said identified channel, **as recited by claim 15, (refer to “fig. 29, and col. 29 lines 24-27).**

4. Claims 17-18 and 20-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Gordon et al**, hereinafter, Gordon, in view of **Yasuda et al** (US Patent No.6,373,905), hereinafter, Yasuda.

For claims 17-18 and 20-21, Gordon discloses all the limitations, with the exception of the following limitations, which are disclosed by Yasuda, as follows:

- wherein said stream identifier and said sequence code are stored within said header portion of said data structure, **as recited by claim 17**, refer to col. 2 lines 37-44.
- wherein said stream identifier and said sequence code are stored within the payload portion of said data structure, **as recited by claim 18**, , refer to col. 2 lines 37-44.
- wherein said channel identification and time of transmission information are stored within said header portion of said data structure, **as recited by claim 20**, , refer to col. 2 lines 37-44.

Art Unit: 2666

- wherein said channel identification and time of transmission information are stored within the payload portion of said data structure, **as recited by claim 21**, , refer to col. 2 lines 37-44.

It would have been obvious to the person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention to use the capability of stream identifier and said sequence code are stored within said header portion as well as payload portion of said data structure . The capability can be implemented at the Network Packet converter. The motivation for doing so as taught by Yasuda being that different paths are routed for the same flow.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 2-8 and 13-21 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Applicant argues, none of the cited references teach or suggest the following limitations of amended Claim 3:

transmitting, via any one of a plurality of available transmission channels, each of said at least one group of packets, said transmission channels nominally transmitting NULL packets in the event of underutilization, said at least one group of packets being transmitted in place of said nominally transmitted NULL packets to minimize the underutilization of said transmission channels', and
Moreover, it is respectfully asserted that none of the cited references teach or suggest the following limitations of amended Claim 13:
a network interface, for causing said associated at least one group of packets to be inserted into any one of a plurality of available transmission channels in place of NULL packets nominally transmitted in the event of transmission channel underutilization to minimize the underutilization of said transmission channels,

Art Unit: 2666

In response, it is stated that Gordon discloses, “transmitting, via any one of a plurality of available transmission channels, each of said at least one group of packets, said transmission channels nominally transmitting NULL packets” (refer to “add null pakets”, col. 22 lines 55-60), “in the event of underutilization, said at least one group of packets being transmitted in place of said nominally transmitted NULL packets” (The null data may be replaced by the graphics grid slices (e.g., at a later step, within the LNE, refer to col. 33 lines 35-40);

In response to applicant's argument that there is no suggestion to combine the references, the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992).

In this case, however, Gordoin discloses singularly, “transmitting, via any one of a plurality of available transmission channels, each of said at least one group of packets, said transmission channels nominally transmitting NULL packets (refer to “add null pakets”, col. 22 lines 55-60), in the event of underutilization, said at least one group of packets being transmitted in place of said nominally transmitted NULL packets (The null data may be replaced by the graphics grid slices (e.g., at a later step, within the LNE, refer to col. 33 lines 35-40);

In light of above explanation, arguments by applicant are not persuasive.

Art Unit: 2666

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Inder P. Mehra whose telephone number is 571-272-3170. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8AM to 5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Seema Rao can be reached on 571-272-3174. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Inder Pal Mehra 2/25/06
Inder P Mehra
Examiner
Art Unit 2666

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